

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

1000-M646

**Case Title:**

Shell Puget Sound Refinery

**Reporting Office:**

Seattle, WA, Area Office

**Subject of Report:**

Contact with Calvin Terada

**Activity Date:**

February 24, 2015

**Reporting Official and Date:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Special Agent

**Approving Official and Date:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

17-MAR-2015, Signed by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

18-MAR-2015, Approved by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Special Agent in Charge

**SYNOPSIS**

On February 24, 2015, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), spoke with EPA Region 10 Emergency Response Unit Supervisor Calvin Terada, regarding EPA's Emergency Response to the Shell Puget Sound Refinery's odor/vapor release that occurred on Friday February 20, 2015. Terada advised that he along with EPA Region 10 On-Scene Coordinator, Mike Boykin, went to the Shell Refinery in Anacortes, after receiving over 30 citizen complaints about a noxious odor in the air that was making people in LaConner, WA and on the Swinomish Tribal Reservation ill.

**DETAILS**

On February 24, 2015, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), spoke with EPA Region 10 Emergency Response Unit Supervisor Calvin Terada, regarding EPA's Emergency Response to the Shell Puget Sound Refinery's odor/vapor release that occurred on Friday February 20, 2015. Terada advised that he along with EPA Region 10 On-Scene Coordinator, Mike Boykin, went to the Shell Refinery in Anacortes, after receiving over 30 citizen complaints about a noxious odor in the air that was making people in LaConner, WA and on the Swinomish Tribal Reservation ill.

Terada advised that EPA Region 10 began receiving citizen complaint calls around 1530 PST. Citizens were complaining about a noxious odor in and around LaConner, WA. He explained that citizen complaint calls continued into the evening until approximately 2000 PST.

Terada stated at about 2100 PST, EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator (RA), Dennis McLerran, contacted Terada regarding the noxious odor complaints the Region was receiving. RA McLerran told Terada that he had received a call from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), stating that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had been negatively impacted by the odor release from the Shell Refinery. According to Terada, RA McLerran suggested that EPA's Emergency Response Unit should respond to the Shell Refinery and determine what the situation was that caused the odor release. Terada explained that he contacted the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and asked if Ecology was intending to respond. Ecology responders stated that they were not planning to respond. Terada advised that he made the decision to respond to the Shell Refinery to do an initial investigation,

Terada advised that he contacted the Shell Refinery and advised refinery representatives that EPA was in route to respond to the incident. He stated that he and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Mike Boykin drove to refinery and arrived on scene at approximately 0100 PST on Saturday February 21, 2015.

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Terada informed that he and OSC Boykin met with several Shell representatives. Shell told EPA that the refinery was conducting routine maintenance on a scrubber unit. As part of the maintenance procedures, refinery employees began steam cleaning the inside of the scrubber unit which caused contaminants to vaporize and escape out of the stack.

Shell reported that the refinery began receiving citizen complaints about 30 minutes into the steam cleaning process. Shell explained that as a result of the complaints, they shut down the cleaning process at approximately 1630 PST on Friday February 20, 2015.

Terada advised that he had a discussion with the Shell representatives about notifying the appropriate agencies and responding to the public about the odor release from the refinery. Shell stated that once they started receiving odor complaints, Shell sent out an Industrial Hygienist with handheld air quality monitoring devices to measure the air around the refinery. Shell told EPA that the air monitoring devices registered " non-detect" levels for the areas monitored around the facility. Terada stated that Shell did not explain what they thought had been released.

After the meeting, Terada and OSC Boykin left the facility and drove around LaConner. During their drive through the community, Terada stated that they stopped and spoke with a night security guard at a housing development. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) confirmed that there was an odor in the air and that (b) (6) odor was exceptionally strong at 1900 PST on Friday February 20, 2015.

Terada informed that during EPA's response to the Shell Refinery, EPA did not conduct any air monitoring and thus they do not know what constituents may have been released into the atmosphere.